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MOUNDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

BY DR. Z. T. DANIEL.

Pottery, stone implements, teeth, bones, shells, &c., are dug from the ruins of Indian houses along the western bank of the Missouri river, immediately in front of and a little north of Cheyenne river. There are a great many of these ruins or mounds, and they measure from 10 feet to 25 yards in diameter; they are round and are uninhabited, generally covered with grass like the prairie, and situated right at the bank of the river. There are none on the eastern bank. However, I am informed by Mr. Jeff Sage, a trader on the other side of the river, that these same circular mounds are on that side, also; if so, then the Rees occupied both sides of the river in their ascent. I got the impression somewhere that they confined themselves to the western hill.

The Sioux Indians here say that they are the houses built for defense by their old enemies, the Rees or Palani, and that they, the latter, made and occupied them during their war with the Sioux.

I am informed that they extend a great distance along the Missouri river, say from St. Louis, Mo., as far as Ft. Bexthold. Right here they are very numerous. The Sioux are the hereditary enemies of these Palani or Rees, and it is a fact, I believe, that the Sioux have driven them from one end of the Missouri to the other, upstream, and that as the Rees moved northward, always on the western bank of the river, they built these houses of mud and trees for occupation and defense.

The ruins consist of circular walls or mounds of earth of variable size, and were probably covered with trees or branches, having a center pole, and all covered with earth. Some are quite large and may have been designed for horses. They were mud houses. Their doors or openings always faced to the east or southeast, they being marked by a slight depression in the wall, and numerous remains of pottery, flint, chips, bones, teeth, &c., lying around, outside and inside; also are seen ash-heaps where a fire has been kept going a long time, and small bits of charcoal right at the doors. This is where they did their cooking—outside the houses.

I have not yet discovered an ash-heap within the walls, and as I understand the houses a fire would be impracticable in them.

All of the pottery is the work of the Arickarees or Rees, or, according to Sioux, Palani. I should judge that it was made, used, and broken more than one hundred years ago, or at a time when the Rees and the Sioux were contesting in this country for the supremacy.

A CENTRAL AFRICAN'S DESCRIPTION OF A EUROPEAN WOMAN.—Magaga, one of the Wanyamwezi, saw an English lady at Zanzibar, and describes her thus: "I saw a white woman at Zanzibar; she had fastened a lot of cloth about her belly like a *Mrua* [a race of the Upper Congo], but she wore most of the pieces of cloth bundled together behind her, while the *Mrua* wears it in front. She had hidden her feet and hands in black and yellow bags, just as she overwhelmed her whole body with cloth. Her body was the ugliest thing about her—as thin round the belly as an insect; so that you would have been able to break it without much straining of your strength. She had tied her breast up high, so that she looked like a young maiden. But that was only a lie; she was an old woman—quite old; in spite of her lie, I saw that. Her face was very white. On her head she had a *Ngalla* (warrior's head-dress) of ostrich feathers, very high, of beautiful feathers. (This seemed to interest Magaga the most. He shook with laughter). She wore ear-rings like our women, and her step was like a man's. *I-icsch! Wasunga!* But I wouldn't like to have such an ugly wife, with a waist like an insect."—(Paul Reichard, "Die Wanjamwesi," *Zeitsch. Gesell. f. Erdkundi*, Berlin, vol. 24, pt. 4, 1889, p. 253.)

JOHN MURDOCH.

TAILED MEN OF NEW GUINEA.—A letter from the Dutch resident at Ternate was read at the meeting of the Berlin Anthropological Society on July 19, 1890, in which the writer states that when he was in Geelvink bay, New Guinea, on July 30, 1880, there came on board his steamer two natives with coccygeal bones projecting 4 cm. in length. As he was not an anthropologist himself, and had no surgeon on board, he was unable to make any detailed investigation. They were adult male Papuans, in good health and spirits, well shaped and muscular.—(*Verhandlungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, &c.*, 1890, p. 405.)